



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **2017 Bainbridge Island Citizens' Police Academy**

**Bainbridge Island, Wash.,** (December, 2016) – Bainbridge Island residents can meet the men and women whom protect the city, ride along with a police officer and become a more informed citizen at the Bainbridge Island Police Department's free Citizens' Police Academy coming up in February.

The Citizens' Police Academy is offered once a year, and the 2017 program runs from February 8 through April 26. Classes are held Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with two additional Saturday sessions. Students have the opportunity to visit the 911 dispatch center, the Kitsap County Coroner's Office, and the Kitsap County Jail. The Citizens' Police Academy gives citizens access to information on how the police department functions. The intent of the program is to provide individuals that live or work on Bainbridge Island a chance to see how their police department functions and to better understand the types of challenges officers face daily. However, we have allowed those that don't live on the island to apply, e.g. individuals considering becoming a BIPD officer.

According to Citizens' Academy graduate, Doug Hansmann, "Both my wife, Nancy, and I joined the Academy class in 2011. We thoroughly enjoyed each lecture which introduced us to the surprisingly broad spectrum of capabilities and activities at BIPD. These included everything from internet fraud, to elder abuse, to criminal investigation techniques and forensic chemistry. My personal favorite field trips were the hands-on firearm practice in the pistol range and the tour of the Kitsap County Jail. Each week you will be introduced to new topics and new speakers. You will finish the course with a new appreciation and respect for our police department."

Chief of Police Matthew Hamner explains, "The program was started to give citizens insight into what officers do while on patrol. Students have the opportunity to become acquainted with the officers who serve them while getting a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes."

Applications are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and class size is limited to 20 students. Call the BIPD at 206.842.5211 to obtain an application or visit the Police page on the city website: <http://www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us/135/Citizens-Academy>. For more information contact Officer Carla Sias at [csias@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:csias@bainbridgewa.gov).

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